

New Guinea  
March 27 1945

My darling Mama:

2118 Hours – to you as a civilian dear Mother – tis 9:18 of the evening and your son John has just returned from an excellent movie “Experiment Perilous” with Hedy Lamar, George Brent, Paul Lukas. She is very beautiful in the picture. It was the first show I’d seen in a long time.

Tokyo radio announces landings on the Reynkos (Phonetically spelled) but we made no mention of it in our communique. Your son is in a position, were you here, to tell you something in re this affair.

You asked about Beetle Nut; I’ve never seen it, but Prentice our new officer & Baron tell me the following: tis not intoxicating unless mixed with lime which is gotten, through boiling from coral reefs. Beetle nut itself comes from a Beetle nut palm. Ordinarily it is chewed as a sort of tobacco. All natives teeth are stained with it; many of them have jet black teeth. I have never seen a native drunk on it.

Today I had a letter from Mrs. Harmon whom I visited in Pennsylvania while I was in O.C.S. Her son Clifford is in France with a maintenance ord. co.

I go the partitions from Sydney off yesterday. I am not sending them by air mail as I am afraid they might get crushed – Hence they will take a good while in coming. I don’t especially care for them, but then they are not bad.

Mother you and I will have to see San Francisco someday. I just read a circular about it written as an advertisement for the coming conference.

Smith and I drove down to our (what do you suppose could be happening to my handwriting?) beach today as I looked at the surf and listened to it, I thought of the book I am reading “Pitcairn Island” & the author’s descriptions of the surf – although I enjoy intentionally being near the surf – really enjoy it – still a well written description of it, presents it as a more enjoyable sight and sound than it really is! – However, I shall never forget its sound on New Guinea shores.

We now have a dog tag for Pin Up, “Pin Up Girl” is written on it along with our company code. She is wearing it now.

Oh yes, we have a very singular insignia painted on our company vehicle – Tis a skull with a top hat on it in the midst of a circle with bolts of lightening darting through it & an ordnance bomb on the hat. [“crude drawing of it”] [drawing] – names suggested for it are Mr. Bones – Mr. Satan, and Dressy Death

Ed might be interested in knowing what vehicles we have in our company. Here they are – 3 two & a half ton trucks, three ¾ ton trucks (weapon carriers) three ¼ ton (jeeps) one command & reconnaissance care (like an open touring car – but with [illegible] one fire truck (1250 gallon capacity) one T.D.-9 bulldozer; two D-2 tractors, one with blade & one without (authorized a D-4 bulldozer in lieu of the D-2.)

Also an M5 tractor crane when we are handling bombs – and finally a water trailer & a one ton cargo trailor. I always meant to mention that to Ed but never did.

Well Mother min – I shall read Pitcairn Island for about 15 minutes and then go to sleep.

I worship & adore you.

Your ever loving son,

John Harrod